MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a general question and so it does not arise. But in this particular case the offence committed was against the provisions contained in sub-section (i) of Section 5 of the Newspapers Regulation.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Newspapers Regulation is intended to satisfy personal vengeance?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I decline to answer that question.

Government Servants who are Reporters to Newspapers.

271. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there are persons in the Government service who are reporters and contributors to newspapers; and

(*b*) whether it is permissible for Government servants to contribute to newspapers praising, adversely criticising or reviewing the administration of the State as a whole for a period or a particular measure?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There was a Government clerk who until recently was the regular correspondent of the "*Madras Mail*". He has now been ordered to sever all connections with that newspaper.

(*b*) The member is referred to the Resolution of Government, dated the 21st January 1888, and Notification dated the 7th April 1891 regarding the position of Government officers as correspondents, etc., of newspapers, published at pages 130 and 328 of the issues of the *Government Gazette* dated the 21st February 1888 and 14th April 1891, respectively.

Endorsement on Memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy from Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.

272. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an endorsement given to Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, Member, Legislative Council, Trivandrum, on the telegram which he had sent to His Excellency the Viceroy, regarding Mr. Mathan's action in Chengannur, has been received in the Huzur Secretariat, and, if so, what has happened to it?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No such endorsement addressed to Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, Member, Legislative Council, Trivandrum, has been received by the Government in the Huzur Secretariat.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I may point out a mistake earlier. I did not say in my interpellation whether an endorsement addresed to Mr. "K. P." Nilakanta Pillai was received in the Secretariat, but whether an endorsement addressed to Mr. Nilakanta Pillai was received there.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): However, this is what I find in the question.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the member refer to the original and say whether the initials "K. P." are there?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The orginal is not with me now.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know, after eliminating the initials, whether an endorsemnet addressed to Mr. Nilakanta Pillai was received by Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member must ask the President whether he may eliminate the initials and ask the question.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): The question is not the one which I have sent and the Government officers are not free to add anything to my interpellation.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I must verify what the member says if he wants to know whether he may now eliminate the initials and ask the question. Moreover, it is not a matter for me to give the answer, but it is for the President.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the member be able to tell me how the mistake came in?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Has it been deliberately done for the sake of framing an answer in this way?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think so.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I say Sir, that even without eliminating the initials the information must be with the Government.

PRESIDENT: I may tell you that I enquired about this last evening and found that some foolish postman delivered an envelope addressed simply to a certain Mr. Nilakanta Pillai to a gentleman in the Secretariat rejoicing in that name and he opened it by mistake. Having found that it was not intended for him, he promptly returned it to the Post Office to be delivered to the proper person. I do not know the contents—it was an endorsement or something of the kind. I was told something, but I do not remember it now. Anyway, it was not a communication addressed to the Government, because all communications addressed to the Government are addressed by the proper designation and that is to the Chief Secretary to Government. No Nilakanta Pillai, purely by that name alone, can form an integral part of the Government and consequently there was nothing received by the Government. Nothing was received in the Secretariat and nothing found a place in the official records. A mistake made by the postman was corrected and the only thing that could be done was to return it to the Post Office to be delivered to the proper Nilakanta Pillai. I presume there are more than one Nilakanta Pillai in Trivandrum and therefore some poor

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[President.]

postman is probably still tramping the streets searching, perhaps in vain, for that particular one of the numerous Nilakanta Pillai's to whom this epistle was addressed.

Working of the Newspapers Regulation.

273. **MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha*) : (1) Since the promulgation of the recent Newspapers Regulation, how many newspapers did stop publication in Travancore ?

(2) Have the Government had occasion to take steps under the Newspapers Regulation against any newspaper ? If so, against which paper ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (1) 7.

(2) The answer is in the negative.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : With respect to the second part of the question, since the promulgation of the Newspapers Regulation, have the Government taken any action independent of the Newspapers Regulation against a newspaper ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, on one occasion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : What was the nature of the action taken ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The newspaper was told that action will be taken under the Newspapers Regulation.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Was it a matter of warning to the newspaper ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Warning that action will be taken.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Why was no action taken under the Newspapers Regulation itself ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I suppose the Regulation is not mandatory.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : So, if an offence is committed under the Newspapers Regulation, it is left to the Government to take action or not ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I suppose so.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : On what principle do the Government make this discrimination ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : No discrimination was made.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Then why did the Government not proceed against this particular newspaper ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I only say that was the only occasion when such a case arose.

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